



Broadcasting
Board of
Governors

2012 Annual Report

U.S. INTERNATIONAL BROADCASTING
Engaging and Empowering Our Audience



bbg.gov

BBG languages

GLOBAL English <i>(including Learning English)</i>	EASTERN/CENTRAL EUROPE Albanian Bosnian Croatian Greek Macedonian Montenegrin Romanian to Moldova Serbian
AFRICA* Afaan Oromoo Amharic French Hausa Kinyarwanda Kirundi Ndebele Portuguese Shona Somali Swahili Tigrigna	EURASIA Armenian Avar Azerbaijani Bashkir Belarusian Chechen Circassian Crimean Tatar Georgian Russian Tatar Ukrainian
CENTRAL ASIA Kazakh Kyrgyz Tajik Turkmen Uzbek	LATIN AMERICA Creole Spanish
EAST ASIA Burmese Cantonese Indonesian Khmer Korean Lao Mandarin Thai Tibetan Uyghur Vietnamese	NEAR EAST/NORTH AFRICA Arabic Kurdish Turkish
	SOUTH ASIA Bangla Dari Pashto Persian Urdu

* In 2012, the BBG worked toward establishing broadcasts in Songhai and Bambara.

On cover: A Syrian man uses his mobile phone to capture demonstrators marching in the neighborhood of Bustan Al-Qasr, Aleppo, Syria. (AP Photo, Andoni Lubaki)

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“[I]f you want to be free, you have to know how free people live. If you’ve never known how free people live, you might not ever know that you are not free. This is why programs like Radio Free Asia are so very important.” – Aung San Suu Kyi

Burmese opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi waves to admirers before the April by-elections, in which she became a member of parliament.



“Journalists working across the BBG networks exhibit great bravery in the face of challenges they encounter in reporting the news. As enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, **‘Everyone has the right to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media regardless of frontiers.’**

Each day our broadcasters work to advance that right.” – Dennis Mulhaupt, then BBG Governor, June 2012

Above: A Syrian man takes pictures with his mobile phone of damage caused by aerial bombardment from government forces in the neighborhood of Tariq al-Bab in the northern Syrian city of Aleppo. (AFP Photo/Sam Tarling)

Letter From the Board

TO THE PRESIDENT AND THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES

On behalf of the Broadcasting Board of Governors (BBG) and pursuant to Section 305(a) of Public Law 103-236, the U.S. International Broadcasting Act of 1994, I am pleased to submit the BBG's annual report for 2012.

This report summarizes the 2012 activities and accomplishments of the BBG, the independent federal government agency that oversees all U.S. civilian international broadcasting, including the Voice of America, Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty, the Office of Cuba Broadcasting (Radio and TV Marti), Radio Free Asia, the Middle East Broadcasting Networks (Alhurra TV and Radio Sawa), and the International Broadcasting Bureau.

During 2012, U.S. international broadcasting continued to fulfill its vital role as a provider of news and information to key audiences in more than 100 countries and in 59 languages. As this report will detail, the BBG capitalized on digital media technology to improve efficiency and to engage with audiences in some of the world's most repressive countries. At the same time, we enhanced BBG's distribution network, adding new FM transmitters in Libya, Afghanistan and Mali, among other places.

Our broadcasters met critical strategic challenges with special programming in response to political events in the Middle East, the rise of Islamic fundamentalism in northern Nigeria, drought in the Horn of Africa, the political opening in Burma, and unrest and protests in Tibet.

Reliable and high-quality research continued to inform programming and distribution strategies, which helped us fulfill our mission in places of particular note in U.S. foreign policy such as Iraq, Pakistan and Yemen. We are committed to evaluating and assessing performance through a rigorous research program as required by law.

With global press freedom at a two-decade low, U.S. international broadcasting provides an antidote to censored news; technologies to break through government information firewalls; and timely, life-saving information that is critical during humanitarian emergencies. Promoting the development of healthy, stable, democratic societies through credible, accurate journalism supports U.S. national interests.

The global need for objective news, analysis and free debate has never been more important than it is right now. And in 2012, the BBG held firm to its commitment to creating and deploying trusted, objective journalism, expanding media diversity and enhancing audience engagement worldwide.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Lynton
Presiding Governor
On behalf of the Broadcasting Board of Governors

Victor H. Ashe
Susan McCue
Michael P. Meehan
John F. Kerry, *ex officio*

Overview

The Broadcasting Board of Governors (BBG) is an independent federal government agency that oversees all U.S. civilian international broadcasting. BBG networks serve as indispensable sources of news for people who often lack access to reliable information. They inform, engage and connect with international audiences across new and traditional media platforms in more than 100 countries. BBG's mission is: *To inform, engage and connect people around the world in support of freedom and democracy.*

Fast Facts: Budget \$752.7 million in FY 2012

3,504 Employees (includes IBB, VOA, RFE/RL, OCB, RFA, and MBN)

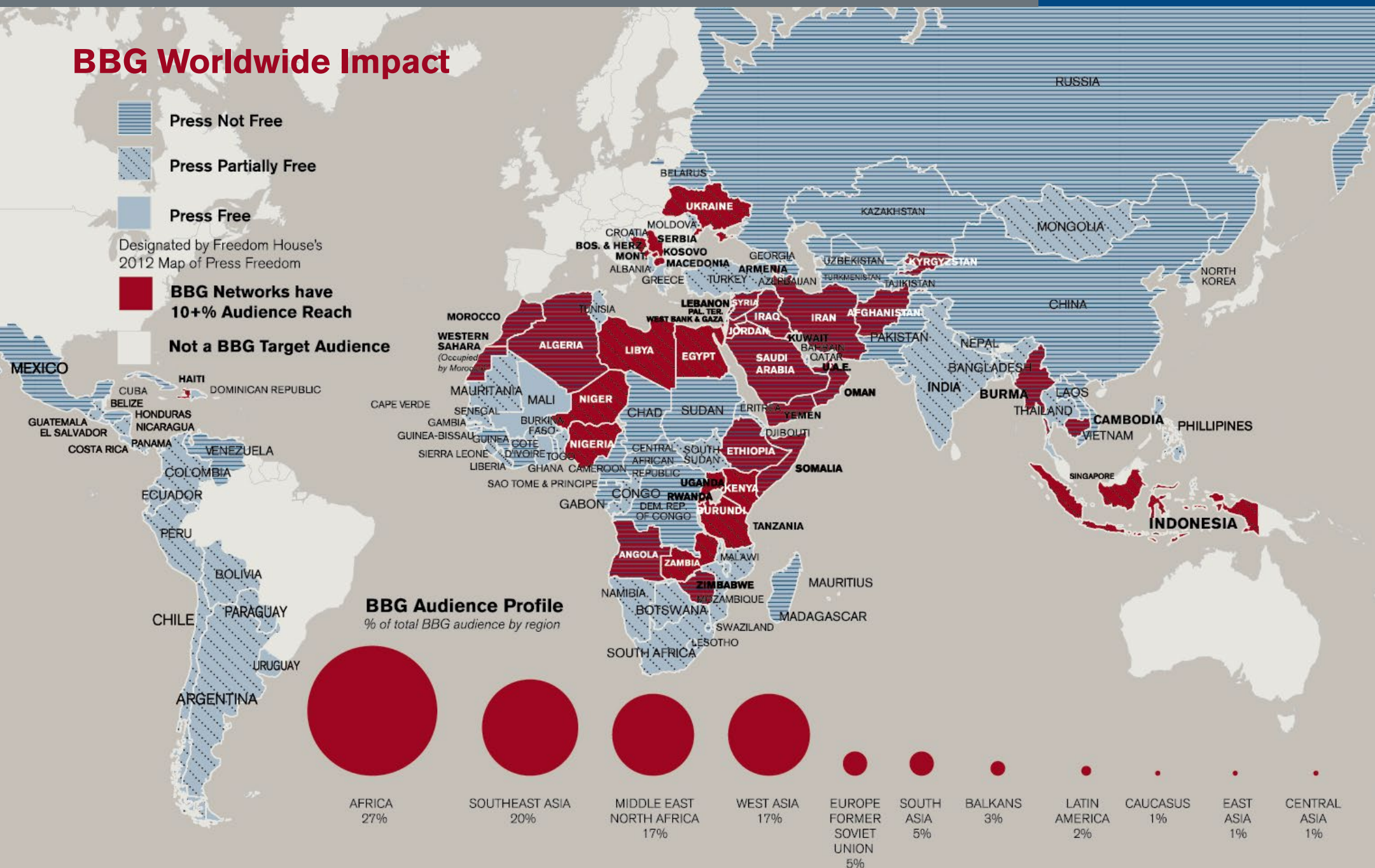
More than 4,150 broadcast hours | 59 languages

175 million weekly audience | more than 100 countries | bbg.gov



Above: An Egyptian protester takes a photo of protesters with her mobile phone in Tahrir Square in Cairo, Egypt (AP Photo/Maya Alleruzzo); Children flash the peace sign to VOA reporter Scott Bobb during an anti-Assad demonstration in Marac on the Syrian border with Turkey.

BBG Worldwide Impact



BBG broadcasters reached an estimated 175 million people per week in 2012, including large audiences in countries that are key priorities for U.S. foreign policy. The figure, which reflects the combined audience of Voice of America, Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty, Radio and TV Martí, Radio Free Asia, and the Middle East Broadcasting Networks (Alhurra TV, Radio Sawa, and Afia Darfur), is a net decrease of 12 million from last year's record total as detailed in the BBG's 2012 Performance Accountability Report www.bbg.gov/performance-accountability-2012. Although this drop likely reflects actual loss in overall audience, some of it also may be attributable to a change in research providers and resulting changes in the survey questionnaire, both of which occurred during Fiscal Year 2012.

BBG broadcasts reached significant audiences in many important markets, including 75 percent of the adult population in Afghanistan, 75 percent in the Somaliland and Puntland regions of Somalia, 67 percent in Iraq, 30 percent in Libya, and 27 percent in the FATA region of Pakistan.

All BBG broadcast entities adhere to the broadcasting standards and principles mandated by the International Broadcasting Act of 1994, as amended. Broadcasts include accurate, reliable, objective, and comprehensive news; balanced presentations of U.S. institutions and policies; and information about developments throughout the world.

Over the past year, the BBG has effectively distributed breaking news, in-depth reporting, and reasoned analysis on traditional and new media platforms, illustrating that international broadcasting is the most effective U.S. tool to provide accurate news and information and relevant discussions to those who do not receive this from their own media.

Other indices of impact — such as how trustworthy audiences find BBG programming and how much the broadcasts increase their understanding, the scope or quality of an individual's consumption of BBG programming, the level of social media engagement, website page views, file downloads or media citations of BBG news coverage — are also important factors considered for program and strategic planning purposes.

The geopolitical landscape constantly challenges the BBG to find inventive and dynamic means to achieve its mission. Whether reaching out to populations in crisis, providing a forum for public debate, or engaging the next generation of decision-makers, the BBG is continually evaluating its approach and striving to meet the unique challenges that its mission aspires to and that today's global political climate demands.

Combating Internet Censorship and Jamming

While overall the BBG saw unprecedented effectiveness of signal delivery to the most relevant target markets, the best ever reliability ratings of its infrastructure, and substantial one-time and recurring cost savings in technology services, persistent challenges remain. BBG efforts to counter Internet censorship have grown significantly in the past few years, with noteworthy results for the millions of users who now have unfettered access to the Web.

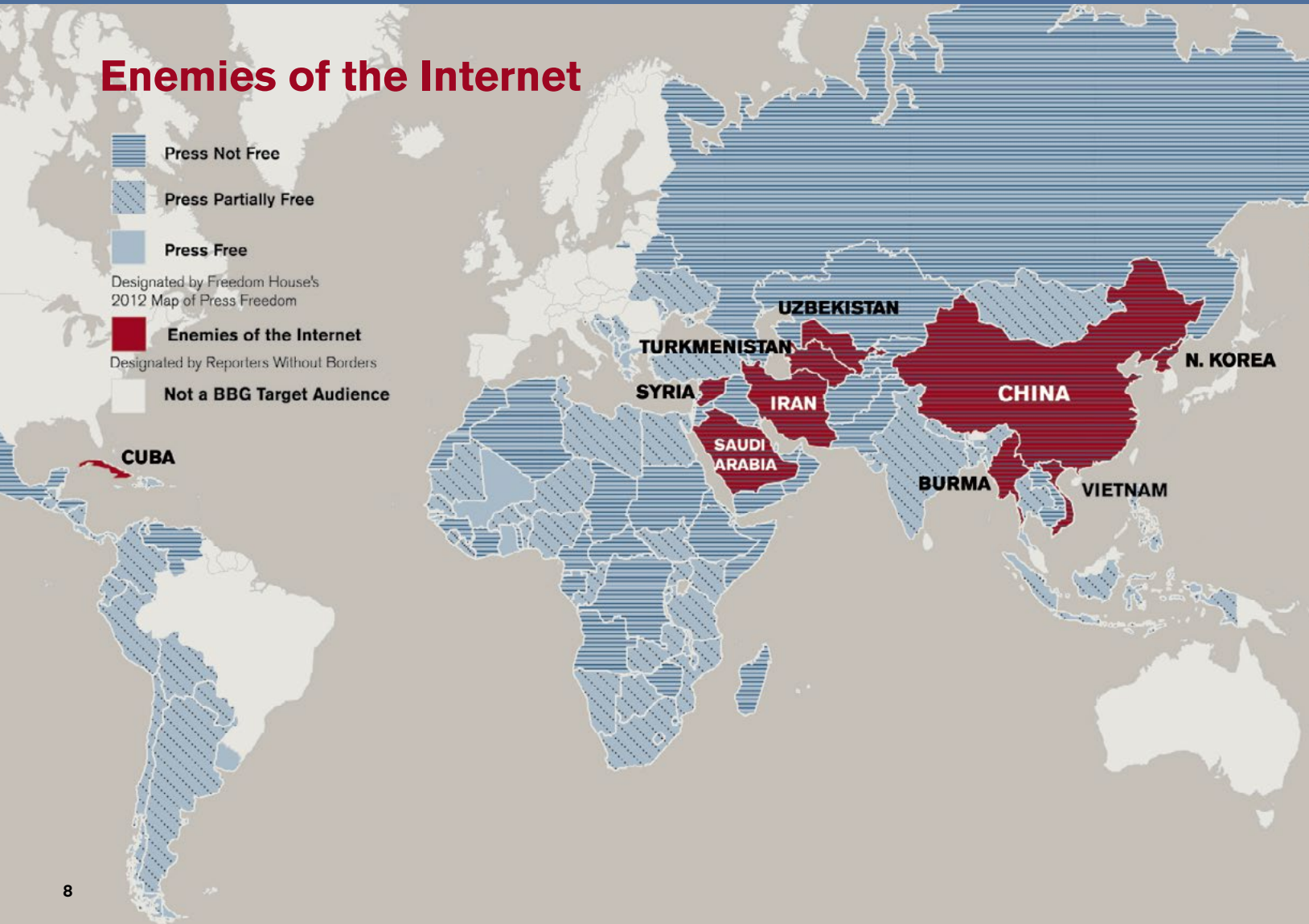
The agency continued to develop, deploy and adapt tools to facilitate uncensored web access and has seen the traffic through the BBG-sponsored tools dramatically increase over the past fiscal year. From China to Iran, from Vietnam to Cuba, millions of users benefit from the BBG’s anti-censorship efforts on a daily basis.

Working with outside partners, the agency is at the cutting edge of anti-censorship technology, constantly responding to new challenges erected by authoritarian regimes intent on preventing open Internet access to their citizenry.

Leveraging new technologies such as satellite radio “with slate” that displays constantly updated proxy server addresses and one-way Web content delivery via satellite-based data streams, the BBG has stayed ahead of the enemies of Internet freedom.

Simultaneously, the BBG works in partnership with other international broadcasters – the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC), Deutsche Welle (DW), Audiovisuel Extérieur de la France (AEF) and Radio Netherlands Worldwide (RNW) – as well as the U.S. Department of State, the European Broadcast Union, and satellite vendors to condemn and combat the deliberate interference with satellite broadcasting signals that silence independent media and prevent free access to information.

Enemies of the Internet



Wearing black t-shirts that say “Stop killing press.” Burmese journalists walk to collect signatures from members of the media to call for an end to censorship. (AP Photo/Khin Maung Win).

Threats Against Journalists

2012 was an especially dangerous year for journalists worldwide. According to the Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ), 2012 set a record for the number of journalists jailed around the globe overall, with 232 individuals in jail as of December 1. Further, CPJ reports that 67 journalists have been killed for their work in 2012 alone.

There is nothing more important to the BBG than the safety of the individuals working with us. Here are some examples of the dangers that our journalists have encountered over the course of the last year. www.bbg.gov/threats-to-journalism

Incidents Involving BBG Journalists



Left: Mukarram Khan Aatif, a reporter for VOA's Deewa Radio, was taking part in evening prayers at a local mosque near his home in the town of Shabqadar, Pakistan, when he was shot and killed by unidentified gunmen in January 2012; Alhurra correspondent Bashar Fahmi, who remains missing following a reporting trip to Aleppo, Syria on Aug. 20.



- ARMENIA**
Elina Chilingaryan, RFE/RL correspondent, was attacked while filming election day activities outside a polling station in Yerevan, Armenia on May 6. A young man tried to seize her camera, repeatedly hitting Chilingaryan on the hand, before knocking the camera to the ground.
- AZERBAIJAN**
Many RFE/RL reporters have been targeted in attacks in Azerbaijan. Khadija Ismayilova was targeted in a smear campaign because of her reporting on high-level corruption, including members of Azerbaijan's ruling family. Nushaba Fatullayeva was attacked while covering a story at a steel factory in Baku. Turkhan Kerimov, another RFE/RL reporter who arrived soon after to cover the incident, also was roughed up. Gulnur Raqifqizi Kazimova was prevented from taking pictures and was physically blocked from attending a public event by Azerbaijani officials. Correspondent Yafez Hasanov received repeated telephone calls and text messages from unidentified persons threatening reprisals against him and his family if he does not stop his investigative reporting.
- BELARUS**
On May 31 authorities detained and interrogated RFE/RL freelancer Ina Studzinskaja while she was reporting on an opposition meeting that took place in Svetlahorsk. Police grabbed her and twisted her arm, preventing her from using her mobile phone to call in a live report.
- CAMBODIA**
In October, RFA and VOA reporters were summoned to a meeting with Cambodian officials in a blatant attempt to discourage objective reporting on the Cambodian government. RFA and VOA broadcast locally in the Khmer language and are among the few radio stations in Cambodia considered free of government influence.
- CUBA**
Antonio Rodiles, the Cuba-based independent producer of the TV Martí program *Estado de SATS*, was jailed in Havana after seeking information on the arrest of two Cuban dissidents. After 19 days in jail, Rodiles was released, and charges of "resisting authority" were dropped.
- ETHIOPIA**
VOA correspondent Peter Heinlein and his translator Simegneh Yekoye were arrested by Ethiopian Police on May 25 for trying to cover a Muslim demonstration in Addis Ababa. Heinlein was held in the Maekelawi prison, where he was questioned about what Ethiopian authorities called his "illegal reporting." Marthe van der Wolf, a VOA reporter, was forced by local police to erase recordings that she had made of a protest rally.
- IRAN**
Iranian Intelligence Ministry officials continue to interrogate and intimidate family members of BBG journalists. These officials regularly denounce the work of Radio Farda and VOA reporters. The intimidation often involves demands that journalists stop reporting on Iran.
- NIGERIA**
Nigeria's radical Islamist sect Boko Haram has continually threatened VOA and its journalists. In a September statement, Boko Haram expressed that the group was going to target VOA and "will not leave any correspondent or staff of VOA alone."
- MALI**
Malick Aliou Maiga, a contributor to VOA, was badly beaten by Islamists occupying the north of the country, after reporting on the Islamists' failed plans to amputate a thief's hand.
- PAKISTAN**
Mukarram Khan Aatif, a reporter for VOA's Deewa radio was taking part in evening prayers at a local mosque near his home in Shabqadar, Pakistan, when he was shot by unidentified gunmen. Aatif, who died from his wounds, had been threatened many times but continued to report on militant attacks, military operations, and social issues.
- SOUTH SUDAN**
Bonifacio Taban, a VOA correspondent, was detained and questioned by South Sudan's army three times between June 1 and June 3 for his reporting on the mistreatment of Sudanese military widows.
- SYRIA**
On August 20, Alhurra correspondent Bashar Fahmi and his cameraman were captured in Syria after they entered the country to report from Aleppo. Ünal was freed on November 17 after almost three months in captivity. As of the printing of this report, Bashar Fahmi remains missing.

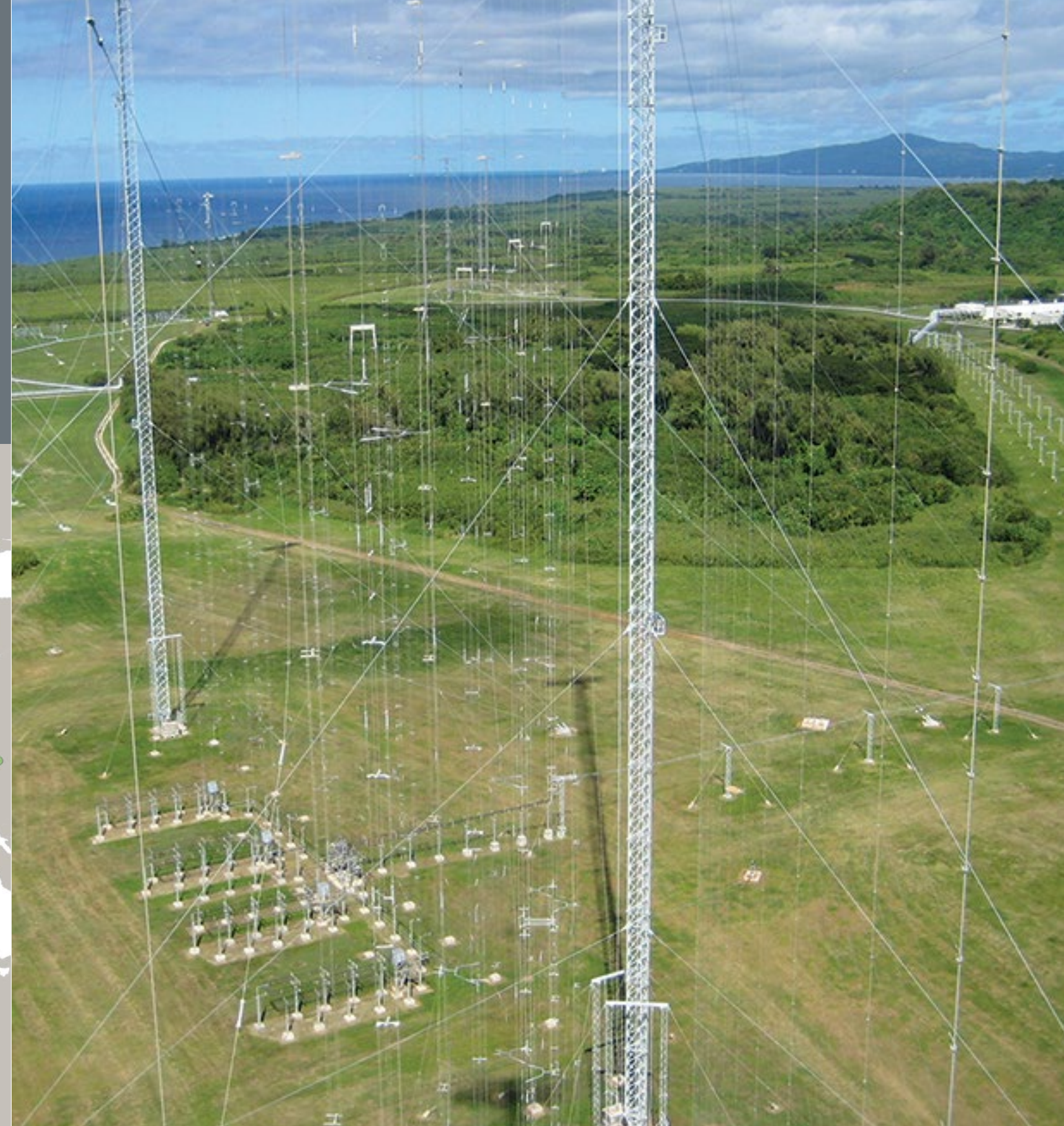
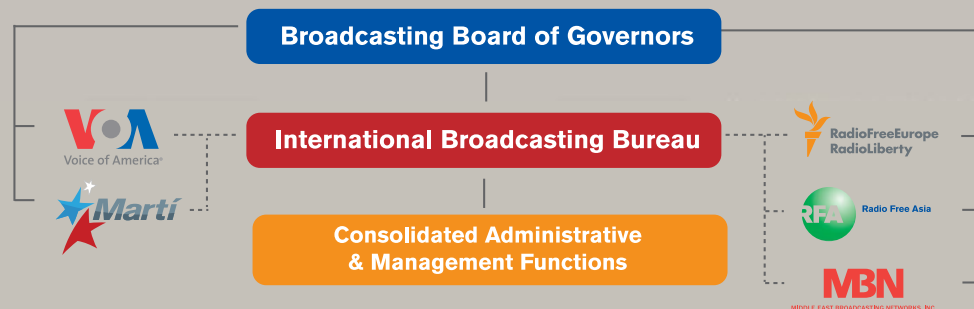
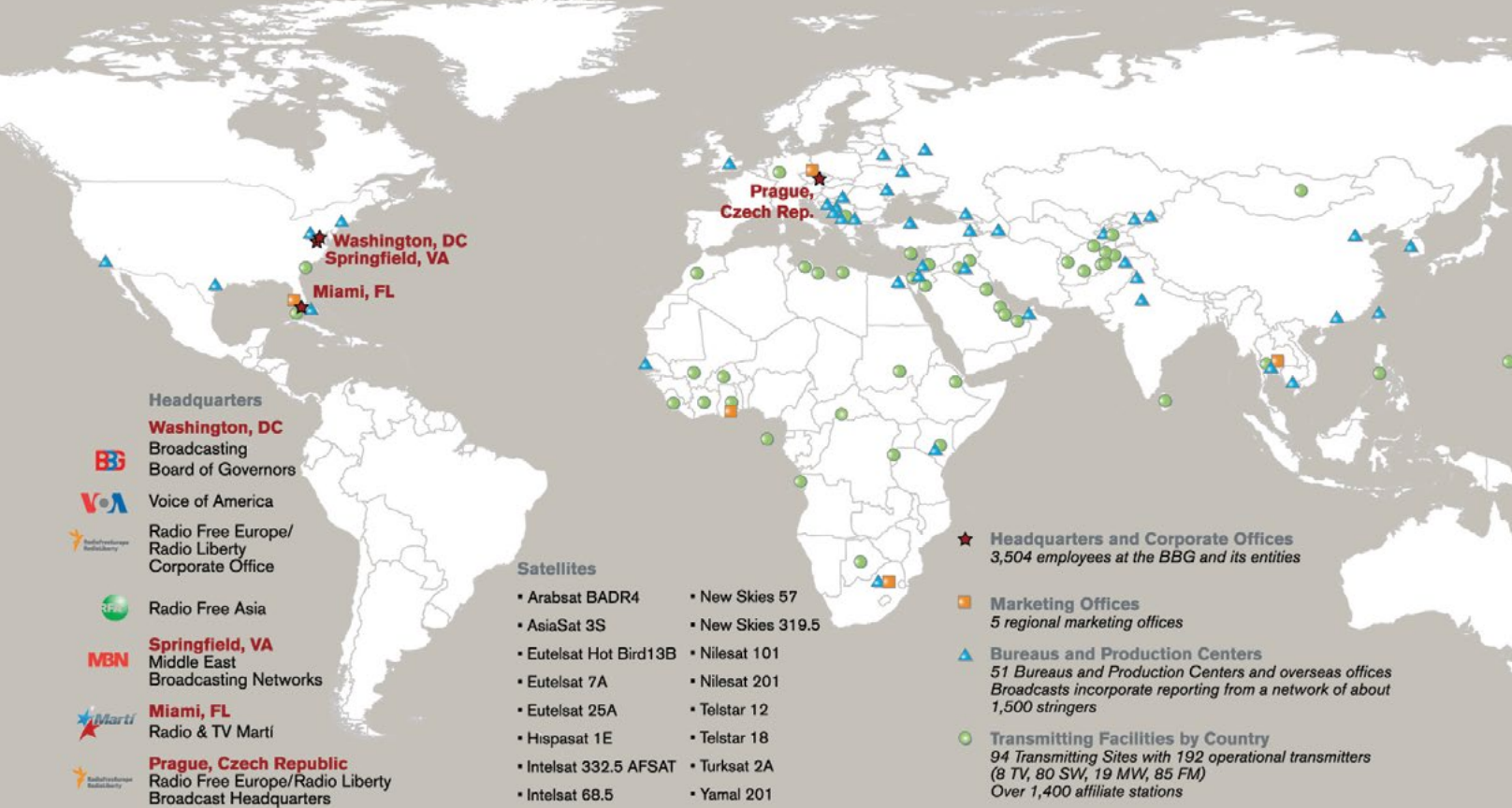


International Broadcasting Bureau

The International Broadcasting Bureau (IBB) is responsible for the agency's strategic planning and oversight, including U.S. international broadcasting's innovation strategy, and transmission, marketing, and program placement services for all BBG broadcast organizations. IBB also is responsible for integrating activities across the federal and grantee broadcasters for greater organizational efficiency. IBB manages the agency's communications, financial operations, and legal support along with a global network of transmitting sites, an extensive system of leased satellite and fiber optic circuits, and rapidly growing Internet and mobile audience platforms and services. IBB provides research and evaluations of broadcasts, VOA editorials, and human resources, Equal Employment Opportunity, procurement, security, information technology, and other essential administrative support for the agency.

Fast Facts: FY 2012 Budget \$263.1 million | 702 employees

Worldwide Facilities



One of 13 shortwave curtain antennas at the Tinian Transmitting Site.

This 800-acre site is one of two transmitting facilities that comprise the BBG's Robert E. Kamosa Transmitting Station located in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. This facility provides high-power shortwave transmissions of BBG programming to China, North Korea, Southeast Asia, and Tibet.



Above: The Office of Digital and Design Innovation taught a summer coding skills workshop for journalists and developers; VOA's Somali Service, using open source software from Google Ideas, polled more than 3,000 Somalis over three months on their new constitution as part of a larger program to engage Somalis around the world in a discussion of the kind of government they want; Direct offers affiliates online access to VOA audio and video reports.

INNOVATION

IBB focused significant energy on innovation, especially on technology platforms and programming distribution. Last year, IBB launched the Office of Digital and Design Innovation (ODDI) that helped lead development of the next generation of digital media platforms, and launched new initiatives to expand the agency's mobile and digital footprint, thereby increasing monthly visits by more than seven million.

ODDI, the Office of Technology, Services, and Innovation (TSI) and the broadcast networks worked closely together to efficiently leverage cutting-edge and emerging technology to reach new audiences and expand the ways the agency tells stories. Highlights include:

- Growing U.S. international broadcasting's mobile websites to reach more than six million new users per month.
- Reacting to changes in Mali and other hotspots by creating simple, low-bandwidth audio distribution channels for mobile phones.
- Deploying a unique one-way Internet via satellite content distribution option that will enable Iranians to download and distribute web content when the Iranian government censors or shuts down Internet access in country.
- Building new relationships with Google Currents, YouTube, SoundCloud, and Apple iTunes as part of a larger digital syndication strategy that has increased the amount of audio and text content on new devices and new channels and will expand to include partnerships with other leading global channels in early 2013.
- The agency sponsored a contest – Pitch Fest – to identify ideas for future programming and to tap internal talent and creativity. The contest was open to all government and grantee employees. Four winners were chosen from among nearly 100 entries; the winning ideas were developed into pilots for potential future deployment.

INTEGRATION

IBB is working to increase cooperation and integration across U.S. international broadcasting. VOA, Radio and TV Martí and the grantees collaborated internally and with external stakeholders worldwide to combat intentional, harmful interference directed against satellite transmissions to Iran and other areas around the globe.

A strategic accomplishment with widespread benefits was the migration of all but one of BBG's broadcast organizations to a common content management system. This move allows greater coordination and interoperability among broadcasters, results in costs savings of \$250,000 annually, reduces systems duplication, expands in-house capability, and capitalizes on the home-grown Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty's Pangea content management system that is a best-in-class service.

In addition, Direct provides affiliates a robust storefront to access content on demand over the Internet, rather than relying solely on satellite transmission.



Using mobile to increase reach:

In response to the crisis in Mali, VOA has increased its on-the-ground reporting and has placed additional news and information on the new Mali1 mobile platform. The Mali 1 mobile service was added in August to take advantage of the large and growing number of mobile phone users, and as a way to get news to regions where extremists have shut down independent media. (AP Photo/Jerome Delay)



Above: (far left) Bruce Sherman, Director of the Office of Strategy & Development, with Elizabeth Henderson, Research Director of RFA, Libby Liu, President of RFA as well as outside experts in a Chinese broadcasting strategy review; BBG & Gallup partnered in a research series on a variety of topics including media freedom; IBB Director Dick Lobo visits with staff in VOA's TV master control.

Throughout 2012, the agency improved the network connecting the physically disparate elements of U.S. international broadcasting. Migrating away from expensive satellite and dedicated fiber circuits, the agency deployed more flexible and cheaper multi-protocol label switching circuits to the majority of the BBG networks' operational headquarters, bureaus and transmitting stations, which facilitates content distribution for all broadcasters and establishes a robust disaster recovery capability at RFE/RL's headquarters in Prague.

IMPACT

The agency's strategic focus on innovation and integration aims to improve impact. A new global research program, which began in FY 2012 with the start of the 2012-2016 Strategic Plan www.bbg.gov/strategic-plan-2012-2016, incorporates an enhanced effort to better define and measure the impact of agency media. This will drive fulfillment of three key requirements:

- to measure as accurately as possible the performance of programs and brands and the agency's ability to report the results clearly and confidently to Congress, the Administration, and the American public;
- to provide the operational elements of the agency with business intelligence that will lead to improved strategies at the program level; and,
- to understand the effect of the agency's work on its target audiences, media markets and societies

The agency sponsored the BBG Research Series, partnering with Gallup, to examine how people use diverse media in key developing countries. Public briefings in 2012 focused on Iran, Tibet, Nigeria, Indonesia, and Zimbabwe.

On the distribution side, IBB created a satellite channel to feed radio programming with visual slates into China. By adding VOA's TV programming to this channel, the agency now delivers its best complement of signals ever into the Chinese mainland.

In FY 2012, the agency rebuilt its entire FM infrastructure in Haiti, which was severely damaged during the 2010 earthquake, including 14 affiliate stations, studios, transmission plants, and towers.

A new, state-of-the-art Global Network Monitoring and Control system monitors, in real-time, the status of thousands of network and transmission components and automatically deploys redundant systems as soon as a failed component is encountered. Reacting in seconds rather than requiring human notification and remediation, this system is already providing higher levels of reliability throughout the entire distribution chain.

The agency's 2012 Performance and Accountability Report details improvement of shortwave and medium wave signal strength as well as satellite network effectiveness and can be read in full online:

www.bbg.gov/performance-accountability-2012

Seizing targeted growth opportunities and rationalizing program delivery are key strategic goals for the agency. The IBB continued expanding its global FM network in key markets with four new FM facilities in

Afghanistan, and FM transmitters in the three largest cities in Libya. Cooperation also is underway for installing FM transmitters on embassy grounds in Africa as well as numerous affiliate placements worldwide.

Combating Internet censorship and jamming is another strategic goal that is the modern day extension of a 70-year battle against censorship and signal interference. The IBB continued its work to facilitate uncensored Web access in places that restrict its use. With increased funding this year, the anti-censorship program deployed a variety of tools and technologies – virtual private networks, satellite data delivery, and proxies – in places such as Iran, China, Cuba, Vietnam, and Kyrgyzstan.

HUMAN CAPITAL INVESTMENT AND WORKFORCE PLANNING

The BBG's diverse, multicultural and multi-talented workforce offers a rich range of experience and expertise to carry out its mission. The IBB continues to address the concerns of staff by gathering employee suggestions, implementing solutions and evaluating what works. The agency began several new initiatives this year, including:

- Collaboration with the Partnership for Public Service to research persistent challenges for workplace morale and facilitate the development of an action plan for measurable improvements.
- A monthly, open discussion with senior leaders and staff, called "FaceTime," to tackle topics raised by staff across the agency.
- A Workplace Morale Group, formed from the Union/Management Forum, which serves as an advisory group researching best practices and developing recommendations for BBG management.
- Formal swearing-in ceremony hosted by agency directors for new employees.
- A management supported campaign to increase awareness of issues of workplace civility to renew commitment to maintain an environment of mutual respect and to foster a positive and productive work environment.
- Training for enhanced skill sets required to program for and transmit via multiple media platforms.
- Continued efforts to equip and energize the workforce to meet mounting competitive pressures worldwide.



International Broadcasting Bureau Director

Richard Lobo, who was appointed by President Obama in September 2010, is the director of the International Broadcasting Bureau. An Emmy Award-winning journalist and long-time broadcasting professional, Lobo served as chairman of the Florida Public Broadcasting Service, Inc. and president and chief executive officer of WEDU (PBS) Tampa/St. Petersburg/Sarasota. He also held senior management posts at WTVJ in Miami, WNBC-TV in New York, and NBC stations in Chicago and Cleveland. He served on the board of the National as well as the Florida Association of Broadcasters. A graduate of the University of Miami, Lobo is a Captain (Retired) in the U.S. Army Reserve.



Above: Satellite dishes at the Kuwait Transmitting Station; IBB Director of Marketing Doug Boynton, VOA Burmese Service Chief Than Lwin Htun, Sky Net Managing Director Myint Myint Win, Shew Than Lwin Media Patron Daw Ni Ni Win, BBG Governor Victor Ashe, U.S. Ambassador Derek Mitchell, and VOA Director David Ensor toast the new partnership of VOA and Sky Net in Burma; IBB Director Dick Lobo speaks at the rededication of the Edward R. Murrow Transmitting Station in Greenville, N.C., seated from left to right are Congressman Walter Jones, TSI Director André Mendes and BBG Governor Victor Ashe.

Covering the 2012 Election

BBG broadcasters helped satisfy a global hunger for information about the 2012 president election, with special programming and real time updates directed at audiences from Cuba to China in dozens of languages and on multiple platforms.



BBG journalists kept the world informed about the months-long race that returned President Barack Obama to the White House.

Voice of America (VOA), Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty (RFE/RL), Alhurra TV and Radio Sawa, Radio and TV Martí, and Radio Free Asia (RFA) all carried election content to their overseas audiences last year. In some locations, BBG broadcasters provided the only accurate accounts of the action as the United States went to the polls in November.

For some audience members, the election-year coverage provided lessons in American civics and the exercise of democracy.

"That's real power to the people," commented an RFA Chinese Facebook fan about one of the debates.

The election coverage by BBG journalists spanned many months and included a wide range of content, including written stories, video productions, live streaming video and radio programming.

While BBG journalists covered the breaking election news as it happened, they also created exciting and innovative new programming to better engage with their audiences, including these examples:

- On election night, VOA's Mandarin Service broadcast a two-hour TV election special and the service's chief, Sasha Gong, took part in a live web-chat on QQ, one of the most popular micro-blogs in China.
- Shortly before Election Day, Alhurra TV spent an entire day with Egyptian, Somali, Sudanese, Algerian, and Palestinian people living in Washington, D.C., to discuss their views about the race.
- TV Martí broadcast the final debate between Barack Obama and Mitt Romney live to Cubans living on the island and assembled a panel of Cuba experts to discuss the debate and its key issues.
- RFA's Mandarin Service conducted a call-in show that prompted online discussion through comments from its Chinese audience.
- RFE/RL sent a Washington correspondent to a neighborhood bar in Steubenville, Ohio, to report on how people there reacted to and perceived the first debate in the critical swing state.
- VOA's Russian Service provided a live, simultaneous translation of the last presidential debate, which was fed via satellite and a video stream online.

Left: TV Martí reporter Vanessa Ruiz at the Democratic National Convention; Alhurra TV's Ali Mahdi covers the Inauguration; MBN's Digital Team reporting for Alhurra.com and RadioSawa.com on election night.

Right: VOA Spanish reporter Lina Correa interviews former N.Y. mayor Rudolph Giuliani at the Republican National Convention; Alhurra's Ahmed Sanad and Hisham Bourar covering a convention; VOA reporters Ade Astuti and Ian Umar at the Democratic National Convention.





The Voice of America reaches more than 134 million people and provides accurate, objective, and comprehensive news and information, as well as informed discussion about the United States and the world. VOA strives to engage audiences in regions deemed critical to the U.S. through whatever medium—radio, television, Internet or digital media—the people of those regions prefer.

Fast Facts: Budget \$207.4 million in FY 2012 | 1,152 employees
1,817 broadcast hours | 43 languages | voanews.com

VOA Target Audiences

- Press Not Free
- Press Partially Free
- Press Free
- Not a VOA Target Audience

Designated by Freedom House's 2012 Map of Press Freedom



Languages

GLOBAL

English
(including
Learning English)

LATIN AMERICA

Creole
Spanish

AFRICA

Afaan Oromoo
Amharic
French
Hausa
Kinyarwanda
Kirundi
Ndebele
Portuguese
Shona
Somali
Swahili
Tigrigna

EASTERN/ CENTRAL EUROPE

Albanian
Bosnian
Greek
Macedonian
Serbian

EURASIA

Armenian
Azerbaijani
Georgian
Russian
Ukrainian

CENTRAL ASIA

Uzbek

NEAR EAST/ NORTH AFRICA

Kurdish
Turkish

SOUTH ASIA

Bangla
Dari
Pashto
Persian
Urdu

EAST ASIA

Burmese
Cantonese
Indonesian
Khmer
Korean
Lao
Mandarin
Thai
Tibetan
Vietnamese



VOA reports on events in Washington and across the U.S. to provide understanding and context for international audiences.

VOA reporter, Carolyn Presutti covers demonstrations on healthcare legislation outside the U.S. Supreme Court on the opening day of oral arguments.



Left: President Obama sent a message to the Voice of America on its 70th anniversary, calling it a “voice of freedom;” VOA Correspondent Al Pessin interviews a wounded Free Syrian Army fighter in Wadi Khaled Lebanon; Ayesha Tanzeem on the set of Access Point, an interactive online show which lets the audience in Pakistan pose questions to a studio guest in Washington; Cafe DC’s Faiz Rehman interviews Under Secretary of State Tara Sonenshine.

The Voice of America marked 70 years of broadcasting in 2012 and now reaches more than 134 million people worldwide. VOA provides accurate, comprehensive and trustworthy news and information as well as informed discussion about the United States and the world. It strives to engage audiences in regions deemed critical to the U.S. through whatever medium—radio, television, Internet, or digital—the people of those regions prefer.

President Barack Obama helped VOA mark its 70th anniversary. In a videotaped message, he said millions of people around the world “draw hope and strength” from VOA broadcasts.

“In the face of foreign governments that censor, you provide news that’s accurate and objective. In the face of regimes that deny universal rights, you stand for freedom and democracy.”

– President Barack Obama

View the full video online:

 <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oQHH29F1PfA>

Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, Nobel Peace Prize Winners Aung San Suu Kyi and the Dalai Lama also sent messages to mark the occasion celebrated in a gathering of diplomats, former VOA directors and distinguished guests.

The following highlights are a sampling from 2012 of VOA’s engagement with audiences in countries of strategic importance, including areas prone to terror incidents, genocide, or failed states.

PAKISTAN

Several new Urdu language TV programs were introduced for audiences in Pakistan. *Zindagi 360*, which airs on the Hum TV cable channel and *Sana. A Pakistani*, which airs on the Express News cable channel, focus on topics that resonate with young people. For frank dialogue, the program *Access Point with Ayesha Tanzeem* gives viewers in Pakistan a way to debate tough issues with studio guests in Washington. The Urdu Service also has launched *Newsminute*, a short segment that airs in prime time on Aaj TV, Express News and Dunya TV.

PAKISTAN’S NORTHWEST FRONTIER PROVINCE

Deewa Radio, which has a large audience in Pakistan’s tribal areas, has moved into the increasingly popular direct-to-home satellite TV market. It has adopted a “radio-on-TV” format as a cost-effective way to expand its reach.

AFGHANISTAN

VOA TV continues to enjoy a large audience in Afghanistan, where it is carried by the national TV network and reaches an estimated 27 percent of the adult population every week. Combined with the weekly radio audience, VOA reaches nearly 11 million people in Afghanistan every week, more than 60 percent of the adult population.

LATIN AMERICA

The VOA Spanish Service increased both its affiliate base and audience reach in 2012 by offering live VOA reports to some of region’s leading television networks and stations. New affiliates include Mexico’s Television Azteca and Radio Formula, Globovision and Radio Caracas in Venezuela, Peru’s Andina TV and Radio Programas del Peru as well as Ecuador’s Teleamazonas and Radio Sonorama. The service also has made inroads in Central America with its “Washington Bureau” concept, which offers live reports from VOA correspondents throughout the United States.

RUSSIA

VOA’s audience in Russia expanded with the launch of *Podelis*, a dynamic TV-webcast that engages online followers on topics they select. VOA Russian is also working with the independent Dozhd TV channel and other stations to provide coverage of U.S. news.

UKRAINE

VOA’s Ukrainian TV program remains one of the most popular in the country with a weekly audience of 16 percent. VOA reports and interviews are now featured on the popular Pravda news portal.

“I think the Voice of America is the most prestigious medium on a global level. . . I thank them on behalf of all of the Albanian citizens for the precious service they have done on behalf of Albanian democracy...”

– Bamir Topi, former Albanian President

NIGERIA

Among the more than 52 million people a week who listen to VOA programs in sub-Saharan Africa, nearly 20 million listen in Nigeria alone. The Hausa Service has responded to the emergence of the Islamic fundamentalist group Boko Haram with the launch of a weekly program that looks at social issues in northern Nigeria. VOA also has conducted a series of journalist training programs, established a reporting center, and added a sports blog for soccer-mad audiences in West Africa.

SOMALIA

VOA’s measured weekly audience is 74 percent of adults in the regions of Somaliland and Puntland. VOA played a key role in gauging public perceptions about a new constitution that was being drafted for the country. Government officials praised VOA for its survey that used Google Ideas software and polled more than 3,000 Somalis about key provisions of the constitution and the kind of government they want.



Right: VOA Spanish editor Ramon Taylor behind the scenes at the Democratic National Convention; Igor Riskin & Yulia Savchenko host VOA’s cutting-edge TV-webcast to Russia, *Podelis*; Covering the developments of the M23 rebel movement in the eastern Democratic Republic of Congo, VOA journalist Gabe Jaselow reports from the town of Sake, just outside of Goma; VOA’s weekly radio call-in show informed the Somali people on their new constitution as it was being drafted.



Left: VOA Burmese Service Correspondent Kyaw Thein reports from Aung San Suu Kyi's victory speech at NLD headquarters in Ragoon; VOA Burmese Journalist Kyaw Zan Tha interviews Aung San Suu Kyi at VOA in Washington; Daphne Dung-Ning Fan on the set of VOA Weishi; Lobsang Sangay, Prime Minister of the Tibetan exile government appeared on the VOA Tibetan program Kunleng.

MALI

The seizure of Northern Mali by Islamic militants brought unique challenges. VOA is one of the first western news agencies to get a journalist into the region after the takeover and set up three-minute newscasts for mobile phone users with on-the-ground reports and breaking news from the surrounding countries.

SOUTH SUDAN

VOA's *South Sudan In Focus* radio program provided extensive coverage of ethnic violence in Jonglei State and tension between Sudan and South Sudan.

ZIMBABWE

VOA's *Studio 7* broadcasts now reach 12.1 percent of rural and 7.5 percent of urban adults weekly in Zimbabwe. VOA is one of the leading international broadcasters in this African nation, which earns continued low marks for lack of press freedom.

“I always listen to VOA in the morning at 5:30. VOA world news is very useful for me.”

– Nobel Laureate Aung San Suu Kyi on a visit to VOA

BURMA

The Burmese Service began the year by expanding its TV magazine show with a fast-paced, six-day-a-week summary of regional and global developments. In a historic market opening, VOA is now carried by Sky Net, a privately owned satellite TV operator of a 24-hour Burmese and English channel. Burma's state-owned radio and television also agreed to broadcast VOA English teaching programs.

CHINA

Chinese viewers now have two hours of fast-paced news and information following the launch of the new Mandarin language television program *VOA Weishi* via direct-to-home satellite and popular social media sites inside China. Innovative program elements provide viewers with information they cannot get on state owned stations. One segment, *Error 404*, focuses on Chinese censorship, showing the audience what is blocked by China's Internet filters and why. In addition, VOA's hit Chinese-English video blog, *OMG! Meiyu* is now available in the iTunes store as a podcast.

TIBET

VOA was on the front line in covering the self-immolations, demonstrations and civil movements that occurred across Tibet and Tibetan areas in China. Despite the closed media environment, VOA provided multimedia coverage of the Tibetan student protests in Qinghai province and a demonstration by the Tibetan medical students taking place in Rebkong. Exclusive cell phone video and a Skype interview with a witness were made available online and on social media sites within the hour, and promptly broadcast on radio.

It is “unfortunate that censorship and distortion of news is prevalent in some parts of the world.” For this reason, “news organizations like VOA are critically important in providing comprehensive and impartial news.”

– Tibetan spiritual leader, the Dalai Lama on VOA's 70th anniversary

CAMBODIA

VOA Khmer has moved from radio production to television with the launch of a four-day a week WebTV program on YouTube. The program covers topics ranging from genocide, corruption and human rights to economic development and social issues. The reports are shared on affiliate television stations in Cambodia as well as on the Web through a growing social media network.

INDONESIA

VOA Indonesian is reaching more than 21 million people each week (13 % of the country's adult population) through more than 400 affiliate radio stations and more than 30 TV affiliates.

IRAN

Audience numbers in Iran grew in 2012. New Gallup data show the weekly TV audience grew to 21.4 percent, up from 6.5 percent in 2011. The return of the VOA signal to the popular Hotbird satellite is believed to be a key factor. With the addition of radio and the Internet, VOA's total audience reach in Iran is now estimated at 22.1 percent. Under the leadership of a new management team, the Persian Service has updated its programs and is now available 24 hours a day on Livestation, an Internet streaming platform.

KURDISH

VOA inaugurated a new weekly news program *Kurd Connection*. Beginning as a web-cast only and hosted by Dakhil Elias, *Kurd Connection* recently gained two affiliations from Kurdish-speaking broadcasters. The Kurdish Service has introduced a social media component to its daily one-hour radio on TV program, with editors appearing on the program to talk about trending news stories and to solicit input from viewers/listeners.

AZERBAIJAN

The Azeri Service is having extraordinary success with its Live Web Forums, using social media and the Internet to bring prominent Azeri officials, human rights activists, writers, and journalists before average Azeri citizens. During the Live Web Forum, the services' journalists act as mediators who relay the questions to the guest and make responses available to the public.

VOA ON THE WEB

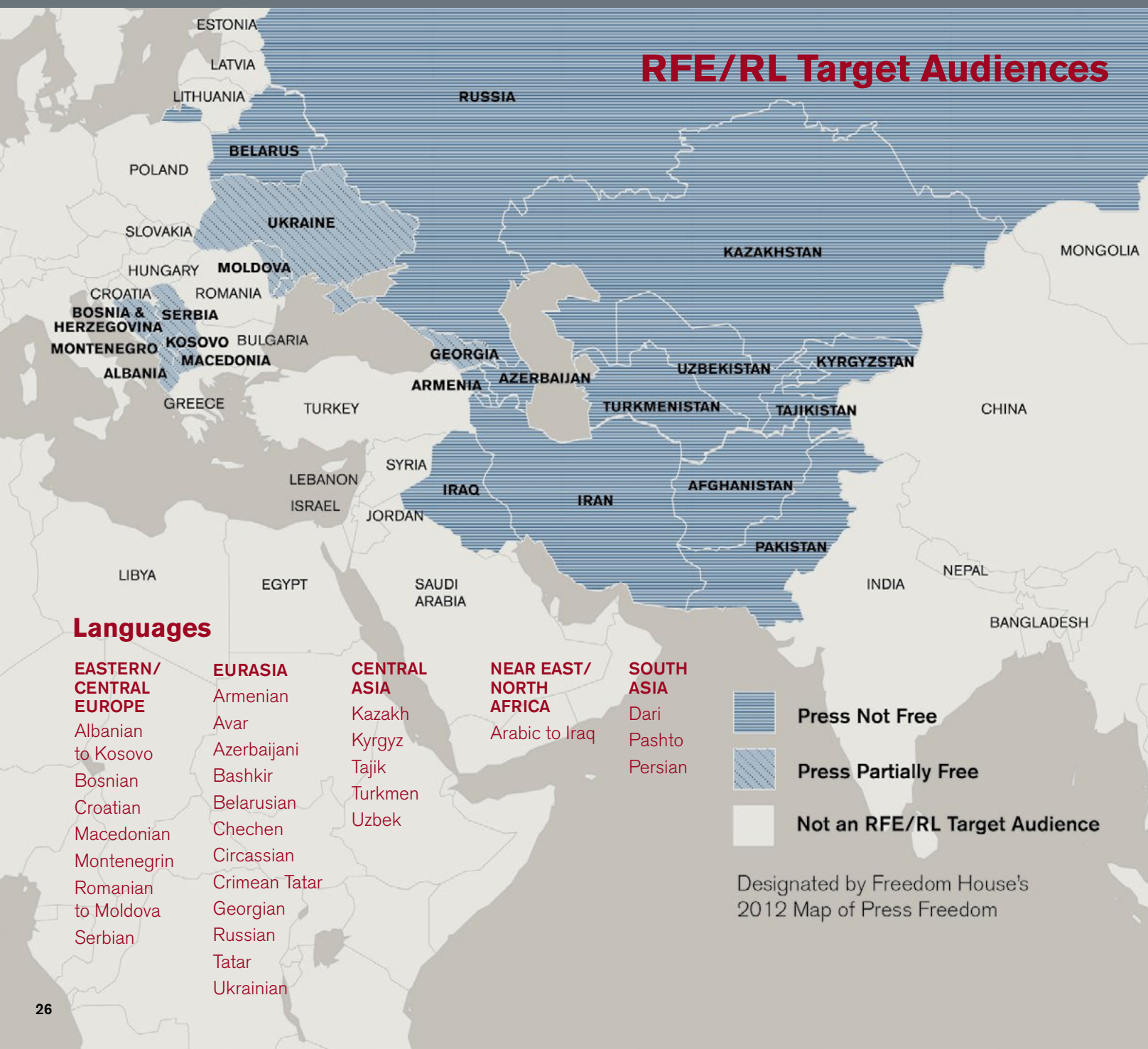
VOA websites got a new look and feel in 2012, with the transition to the Pangea content management system that makes navigation easier, highlights compelling content, and allows more multimedia functionality.



Right: VOA Persian launched OnTen (Antenna) a half-hour mix of parody, satire, comedy and news that gives viewers a tongue-in-cheek look at Iranian government policies and the people behind them; VOA Persian Service journalist Setareh Sieg visits the Syrian-Jordanian border and interviews young girls at the Zaatari refugee camp; Kurdish audience in Amuda in northeastern Syria; VOA's Sonny Young covers the 2012 London Olympics.

Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty (RFE/RL) reaches more than 23 million people in 28 languages and in 21 countries, including Iran, Iraq, Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Russia. RFE/RL journalists provide what many people cannot get locally: uncensored news, responsible discussion, and open debate. RFE/RL uses the latest digital technologies - the Internet, SMS text messaging, online video, satellite radio, and popular social media networks - and trusted broadcast radio to reach people in some of the most closed societies on earth. With more than 60 years of surrogate broadcasting experience, RFE/RL continues to bring audiences the rich, immediate, and interactive content they seek. RFE/RL is funded by a grant from the BBG.

Fast Facts: Budget \$95.2 million in FY 2012 | 511 employees
1,170 broadcast hours | 28 languages | rferl.org



Pakistan remains one of the world's most dangerous places for journalists. Threats to journalists are no longer confined to traditionally violent areas such as the border region, the Federally Administered Tribal Areas, or Baluchistan. According to the Committee to Protect Journalists, reporters in Islamabad, Peshawar, Quetta, Karachi, and Lahore face persistent threats.

Above: A young Pakistani girl is interviewed by a Mashaal Radio reporter about her destroyed school in Khyber tribal district of Pakistan.



PAKISTAN

Radio Mashaal's mission to counter extremism in Pakistan's remote tribal regions was on full display in its coverage of the October attack on schoolgirl Malala Yousafzai. Radio Mashaal provided coverage that was original and infused with an intimate understanding of the region and the political forces at play in a story that quickly went global. In such areas, where communities are controlled by militants and subject to their propaganda, Radio Mashaal journalists themselves work under threat and at great personal risk.

IRAN

Radio Farda's award-winning series *Solitary Confinement* and *Born in Prison*, documenting first-hand stories of Iranian political prisoners, exemplified the service's role in addressing developments both inside and outside Iran that are banned in the official press. Vigorous social media programming, *The Sixth Hour* call-in show, and a newly launched TV format increased its capacity to engage Iranians directly on political, social, cultural, economic "and security issues they define as important.

“Congratulations Radio Farda. If it was not for you, our radio set would remain turned off.”

— Listener in Iran, December 18, 2012

AFGHANISTAN

Radio Azadi is recognized as Afghanistan's surrogate national public broadcaster, reaching more than 60 percent of the country's adult population with trusted, in-depth coverage of issues affecting their communities and their country. In daily reporting about schools, water, transportation, domestic violence, local conflict, public health, unemployment and refugees, Azadi shines a spotlight on real problems, engages its audience in informed discussion, facilitates responses from local officials and promotes public accountability. It has become the standard-bearer of professional journalism in Afghanistan while contributing to a culture of public participation, pluralism and debate.

KYRGYZSTAN

The Kyrgyz service has positioned itself as an informed and enterprising multimedia outlet that delivers news with impact. A story on violence within the Kyrgyz émigré community in Russia broke a social taboo, while a radio documentary on the country's Sulukta coal mines highlighted the scourge of poverty in the south and prompted local advocacy groups to act. The service has pioneered the practice of live field-based reporting and has received grants to train media in other countries on its techniques.

Above: Radio Azadi correspondent interviews Kabul University students; Mashaal's correspondent talks to the owner of charity-funded organization for rehabilitation of drug addicts in Chaman, Pakistan; RFE/RL covered the plight of children working in Sulukta coal mine in southern Kyrgyzstan; Robert O. Blake, Assistant Secretary for South and Central Asian Affairs, talks to a correspondent from RFE/RL's Kyrgyz's Service.

TAJIKISTAN

Despite an increasingly hostile media environment, the Tajik Service exemplified the role of an independent, investigative news organization with unstinting reporting on military operations, security issues and social problems during the year. The service's award-winning website was blocked on several occasions as authorities attempted to control the flow of unsanctioned news inside the country.

KAZAKHSTAN

The Kazakh Service's coverage of political, social, economic and environmental issues, epitomized in its coverage of violent clashes in Zhanaozen and the resulting trials and aftermath, demonstrated its role as an essential source of independent and verifiable information dedicated to local news in the Kazakh language.

BELARUS

The Belarus Service is a leading innovator at RFE/RL, continually pioneering new platforms to provide audiences with access to news, satire, investigative reports and vigorous policy debate. The service published another book in a series celebrating the country's human rights defenders. A prison manual published by the service was a survival manual for listeners behind bars.

AZERBAIJAN

Radio Azatliq's prominence as Azerbaijan's leading provider of independent news received a boost earlier in the year with an exposé capturing police taking bribes on film. After the video went viral the officers were fired. The service's Corruption Meter and investigative reports on the financial holdings of the ruling family added to its reputation as a source of intrepid, public interest journalism.

RUSSIA

The Russian Service reported extensively on the societal ferment that accompanied Vladimir Putin's return to the presidency. Covering major opposition protests, the verdict against the musicians of "Pussy Riot", and the ban on adoptions by Americans, the service drew on its vast freelance network and depth of experience. Because virtually all international radio delivery ended due to a change in law, the Service began pursuing an enhanced digital strategy to bring together Russia's atomized society through multimedia, web-based content from across regions and social strata.

UKRAINE

The Ukrainian Service delivered high-profile and high-impact coverage of the October parliamentary elections to as many as one million users on a mix of platforms, showcasing a decisive shift toward a digital distribution strategy. For days after the polls closed correspondents remained on the spot, broadcasting direct from a precinct where a balloting dispute raged, setting a new standard for live coverage and access.



Above: RFE/RL live-blogged the trial of the female punk band "Pussy Riot" (L-R) Yekaterina Samutsevich, Maria Alyokhina, and Nadezhda Tolokonnikova; Interior Ministry officers detain opposition activists during a protest rally to defend Article 31 of the Russian constitution which guarantees citizens the right to gather peacefully and demonstrate; RFE/RL correspondent Hanna Sous reports in Kurapaty, Belarus; Screen capture of the live-stream broadcast from the District Election Commission in Kiev.



The Martí are a multimedia hub of news, information and analysis that provides the people of Cuba with interactive programs seven days a week through television (satellite, UHF and VHF) and shortwave and medium wave radio, as well as through flash drives, emails, DVDs, and SMS text. Combined with the online platform, martinoticias.com, they are a one-of-a-kind service that brings unbiased, objective information to all Cubans. The Office of Cuba Broadcasting (OCB) conducts the operations of the Martí at its headquarters in Miami.

Fast Facts: Budget \$28 million in FY 2012 | 119 employees
330 broadcast hours | 1 language | martinoticias.com

Language

Spanish

The Martí Target Audience

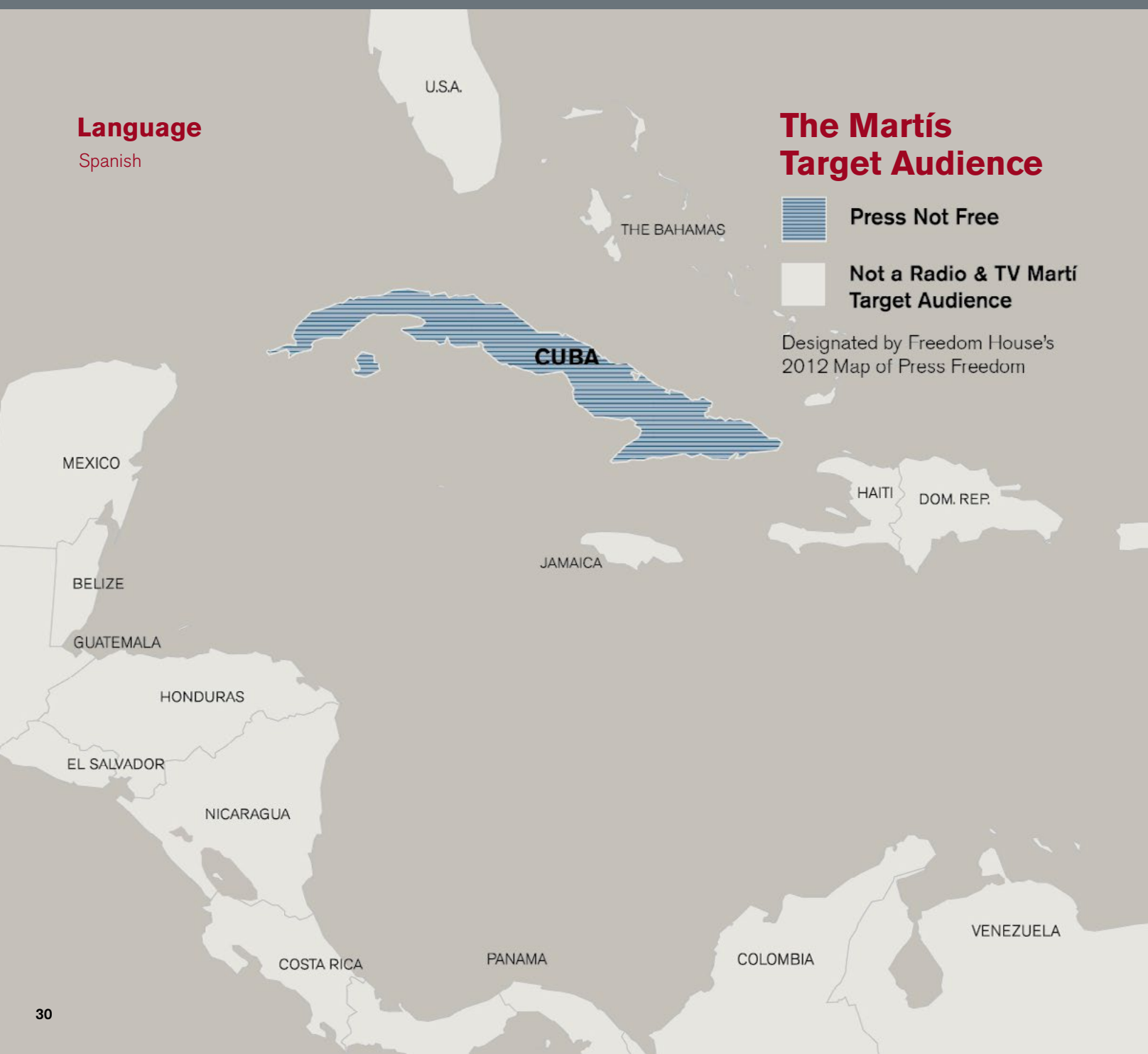


Press Not Free



Not a Radio & TV Martí
Target Audience

Designated by Freedom House's
2012 Map of Press Freedom



Antena Live, a TV Martí half-hour magazine style show, is hosted in Miami. In August and September, the team went on the road to broadcast live each night of the Democratic and Republican Conventions.



Cuba continues to have one of the most restrictive media environments in the world. The communist government that has ruled the island since 1960 controls all Cuban media, and independent journalists are routinely harassed, arrested and deprived of the most basic freedoms. Internet access is severely curtailed and private citizens risk their personal safety and potential imprisonment for cooperating with foreign media.

The Cuban government attempts to jam the Marti's radio and TV signals, but OCB has made significant progress in circumventing and defeating the jamming. Besides the traditional means of distribution, in 2012, Radio Marti added an FM frequency, and began limited broadcasts through a privately-owned AM station that is clearly heard through most of the island. Likewise, TV Marti increased its delivery through direct to home satellite services widely available in Cuba, and efforts to deliver programming via flash drive and DVD have been successful. On the Internet front, the increased use of proxy sites, established and managed by the Marti's, allow Cubans unfettered access to the Internet without fear of government censors.

In 2012, the Marti's continued to expand their unparalleled coverage of Cuba alongside their most complete coverage ever of elections in the U.S. and across Latin America. By emphasizing the workings of democracy across the entire hemisphere, the Marti's are facilitating a broader dialogue.

The Marti's balanced reporting on events remains essential. Examples include: the rounding up of dissidents prior to the arrival of Pope Benedict XVI, the suspicious circumstances surrounding the death of pro-democracy activist Oswaldo Payá, the arrest of Antonio Rodiles, and many other human rights abuses that go unreported.

Marti programming decisions are informed by regularly-scheduled focus groups with recently-arrived Cuban immigrants. Broadcasts cover a wide range of topics, news, entertainment, and sports. The Marti's also partner with Major League Baseball to broadcast regular season games in addition to the All Star Game, the Play-Offs and the World Series.

TV Marti continues to expand its programming to make it more relevant and accessible to its viewers. In 2012, the Marti's were honored with three Emmy Award nominations. All Marti programming is available live and on demand via martinoticias.com.

On left from the top: The 9th annual Cuba Nostalgia Event where people could stop by and send messages to friends and family in Cuba through the Marti's; Election coverage from TV Marti in Miami; Radio Marti show El Revoltillo; Broadcast of Major League Baseball games to Cuba.

2012 HIGHLIGHTS

The Marti's held an audience contest to raffle off six mopeds donated by Cuban-Americans. More than 2,600 Cubans contacted Marti by phone, email, Twitter or Facebook for a chance to win.

The Marti's also launched *Estado de SATS*, the first program in the history of Radio and TV Marti to be produced entirely in Cuba. The Emmy-nominated program is the brainchild of Dr. Antonio Rodiles, a U.S. educated physicist who returned to Cuba. Rodiles was arrested for his pro-democracy efforts in November of 2012 but vowed to continue with his project after being released.

Martinoticias.com set a record with more than 18,000 daily visitors during Pope Benedict XVI's visit to Cuba. The average number of daily unique visitors to martinoticias.com has increased more than 1,000 percent in the past two years.

In the second quarter of FY 2012, the Marti's were the number one federal agency in terms of retweets, according to OhMyGov, Inc. which dubbed the Marti audience as the most engaged on Twitter.

TV Marti debuted a new program *Antena Live* a half-hour newscast presented by Karen Caballero and Vanessa Ruiz. The program is a dynamic, quick-paced, rundown of the day's most important events.

TV Marti also produced *Hacia La Democracia (Toward Democracy)*, which was nominated for an Emmy Award, with the Albert Einstein Institute. *Hacia La Democracia* is a how-to guide for transitioning from dictatorship to democracy.

And the Marti's established the most extensive network, to date, of freelance reporters inside Cuba yielding quick results with exposés on Cuba's health and educational systems and the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy.

“The station has been the only source of information on Hurricane Sandy even before the storm's arrival. Meteorologist Lazaro Dominguez was accurate in his forecast. We prepared following his instructions since we received no warning from the Cuban Government.”

— A caller from Santiago, Cuba

On right: On the set of *America Elige (America Decides)* a series providing Cubans with comprehensive information on the U.S. presidential election.; The Marti's reported on Hurricane Sandy; TV Marti's Karen Caballero interviews Carlos Gutierrez, former Secretary of Commerce, at the Republican National Convention; In the studio of 1800 Online, an informative, daring and refreshing radio show that is simulcast online.





Radio Free Asia

Radio Free Asia (RFA) is a private, non-profit news organization operating under a grant from the BBG. Broadcasting daily in nine languages to listeners in Asia whose governments restrict media, RFA delivers award-winning, reliable news and information, along with a range of voices and opinions from within Asia, to demonstrate freedom of expression over the airwaves, on television, and online.

Fast Facts: Budget \$41.7 million in FY2012 | 268 employees
181 broadcast hours | 9 languages | rfa.org

RFA Target Audience



“One of the brokers told me not to worry. He said after three months, I would have enough money for a car and a new house back in Burma. I didn’t believe it and kept saying ‘no!’ But there was no way to escape.”

– Aye Aye, a Burmese woman who was sold to a Chinese farmer and spoke out to RFA as part of the in-depth *Human Trafficking and Modern Slavery* multi-media series

Above: RFA undercover footage inside a brothel in Vientiane, Laos, reveals dozens of trafficked girls, some as young as 13;
Right: A former child soldier from Burma shared his story in RFA’s award-winning online video series on human trafficking.





Through shortwave, medium wave, satellite TV transmissions, social media, and the Internet, RFA broadcasts in Mandarin, Cantonese, Uyghur, three Tibetan dialects, Burmese, Vietnamese, Korean, Lao, and Khmer. Headquartered in Washington, D.C., RFA has seven overseas bureaus and a vast network of correspondents around the world. Call-in programs and multimedia websites provide the audience with a forum in which they can freely express views and exchange ideas.

Following strict journalistic standards of objectivity, integrity, and balance, RFA serves as a model for its target countries' emerging journalistic traditions. Reaching Asian listeners across all social strata and maintaining credibility are RFA's top priorities. RFA's journalism is cited in reports in *The Wall Street Journal*, *New York Times*, CNN, *Associated Press*, *NHK*, *Al Jazeera*, and BBC, among numerous domestic and international outlets.

“I hear a lot of people on RFA call-in shows saying they feel helpless. There’s nothing they can do. There’s so much corruption among officials. I want to tell them there’s a lot they can do. First, they can tell their neighbors to listen to RFA. . . . In the near future, I think these people will discover they and their radios set to RFA will make a big difference.”

– Chen Guangcheng

CHINA

Throughout the year, the Mandarin Service provided detailed coverage of crackdowns on Chinese activists and petitioners leading up to China's 18th Party Congress. In an interview at RFA's Washington headquarters, Chinese legal activist Chen Guangcheng praised RFA for its coverage of human and civil rights issues in China.

Commentator Jiang Weiping, a renowned journalist who spent six years in jail in China because of his reporting on the rise and misuse of power by Politburo member Bo Xilai, provided a stream of in-depth analyses of Bo's downfall following corruption charges.

The Tibetan Service broke dozens of stories on the self-immolations against Chinese rule, involving more than 100 Tibetan men and women. RFA did exclusive reporting on thousands of students protesting the release of a Chinese booklet that disparaged the Tibetan language and ridiculed the self-immolations.

The Cantonese Service broke numerous stories on China's food safety problems, pollution caused by power plants, and the lead poisoning of children. The service also documented cases of forced abortions, rural-urban disparities, and the problems of petitioners and migrant workers.

The Uyghur Service covered the continued disappearance of Uyghurs in China's Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region since 2009. RFA reported on restrictions imposed on Muslim Uyghurs engaging in religious practices during Ramadan, including an enforced ban on fasting for civil servants.

NORTH KOREA

The Korean Service reported on North Korean leader Kim Jong Un's first year in power, which was marked by human rights abuses and a tightening of border security aimed at deterring people from fleeing the country. The service also increased its use of North Korean defectors. RFA videographers interviewed North Korean women who were victims of the Chinese bride industry.

CAMBODIA

The Khmer Service covered violent crackdowns on villagers over land disputes and acts of intimidation against reporters, broadcasters, and human rights groups. The service devoted several broadcasts to the assassination of Chut Wutty, a prominent environmentalist.

LAO

The Lao Service reported on the sex trafficking of Lao girls to Thailand and took undercover footage of teenage girls working in a brothel in Vientiane. The service also reported on land concessions made to Chinese and Vietnamese companies by the Lao government and growing Chinese influence in the region.

VIETNAM

The Vietnamese Service reported on mass demonstrations of farmers protesting inadequate compensation for land seized for state-backed development projects. The service also covered the arrests, trials, and sentencing of bloggers who spoke out about corruption and human rights abuses in Vietnam.

BURMA

The Burmese Service launched RFA's first daily television program and covered a government crackdown on mass protests against a China-Burma joint venture copper mine. RFA led coverage of deadly communal violence in western Burma, including video interviews with refugees. The service covered by-elections that led to Aung San Suu Kyi and her party winning seats in parliament.



Right: Supporters of jailed Cambodian radio station owner Mam Sonando gather outside an appeals court in Phnom Penh, calling for his release on bail; In Hanoi, Vietnam, hundreds of farmers protest against what they claim were illegal land grabs in areas outside the capital city; June arsons triggered deadly violence in Burma's western Rakhine state between Muslim Rohingyas and Buddhists.



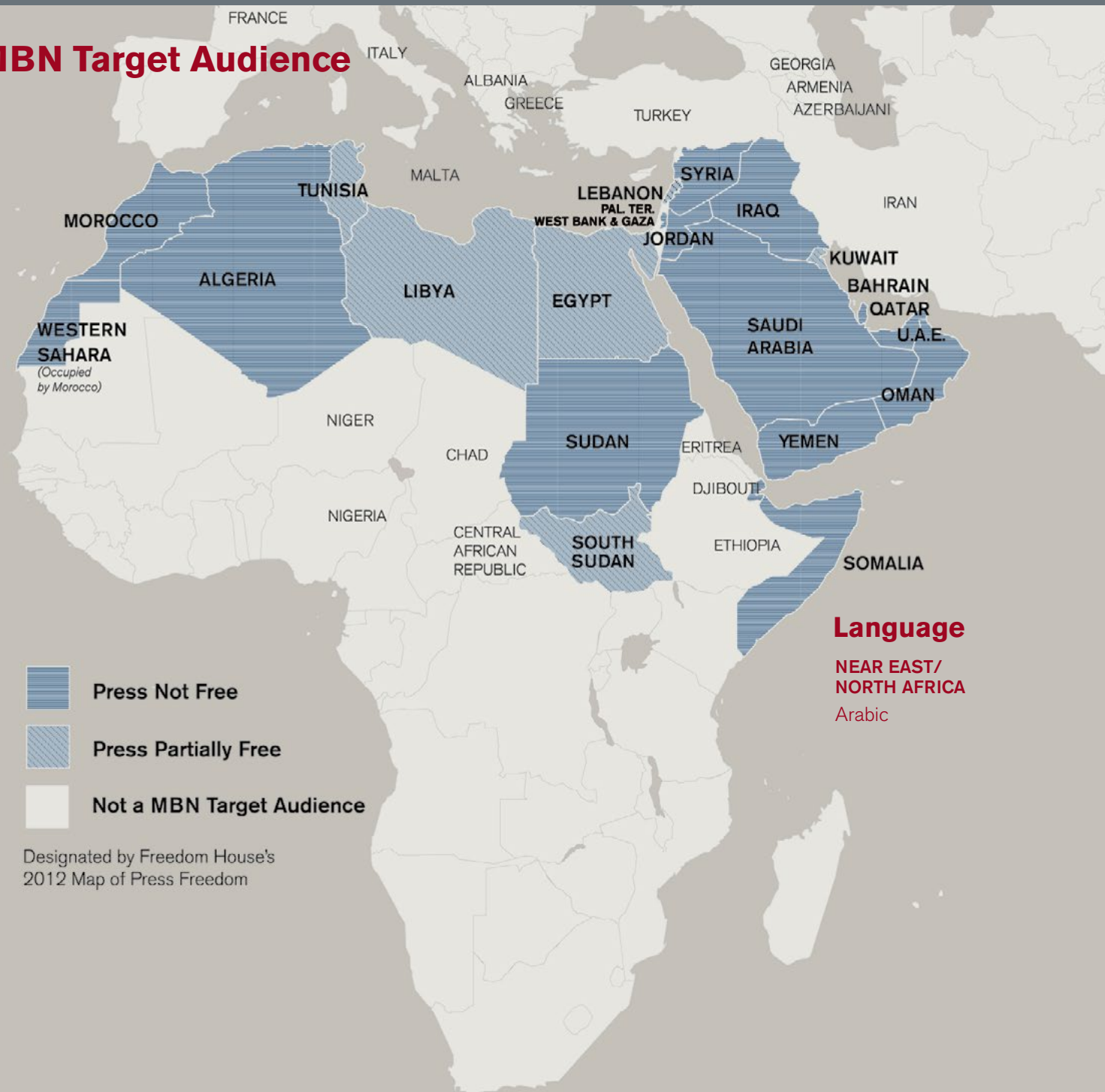
MIDDLE EAST BROADCASTING NETWORKS, INC.

The Middle East Broadcasting Networks, Inc. (MBN) is the non-profit news organization that operates Alhurra Television and Radio Sawa under a grant from the BBG. These networks provide the United States an undistorted line of communication with the people of the Middle East. They deliver accurate and objective information about America, American policies and its people with a broad range of perspectives and an open exchange of ideas on issues of importance to the audience.

Fast Facts: Budget \$110.3 million in FY2012 | 763 employees
683 broadcast hours | 1 language

alhurra.com | radiosawa.com

MBN Target Audience



As Egypt held its first democratic presidential elections, Alhurra partnered with the most popular television network in Egypt, Al Hayat TV, to produce *The President—Egypt 2012*, an eight-part special series that included in-depth interviews with candidates.

Above: Political, legal and strategic military experts ask questions of the candidates during the joint Alhurra/Al Hayat Television debates; Alhurra and Al Hayat partner to interview presidential candidates before the historic debate; Alhurra's Tarek El Shamy and Al Hayat's Mahmoud Musallam press candidates about their political platforms; former presidential candidate Hamdeen Sabahi answers questions from the moderators.



On left: Radio Sawa's Ziad Benjamin and Shirin Yaseen report on 2012 election results; Alhurra's Hussein Jradi interviews Mahomoud Jibril, who served as the interim Prime Minister of Libya; in the Alhurra newsroom Mariette Abboud and Doaa Elatrby consult on a story; Hanan, Mario and Sondos from Rayheen ala Feen? (Where Are We Going?).

As the pro-democracy movements continue to sweep across the Middle East, Alhurra and Radio Sawa journalists are on the front lines providing accurate and objective news to audiences across the region. The Middle East remained a dangerous place for journalists in 2012: Alhurra correspondent Bashar Fahmi disappeared in Syria in August and remains missing as of the time of publication. Although freedom of the press has improved in a few countries according to Freedom House, reporters remain severely restricted in the Middle East.

In addition to reporting on the news, Alhurra and Radio Sawa stand apart from many other Arabic-language media in that they present all sides of sensitive issues not found in other media outlets. Alhurra and Radio Sawa also provide comprehensive coverage from the United States—politics, values and its people.

Each day, Radio Sawa provides more than seven hours of up-to-date news and information with an upbeat mix of mainstream Western and Arabic popular music. Broadcast 24/7 and mostly on FM, Sawa reaches a significant portion of the influential under 35 population in the region.

“Radio Sawa’s . . . innovative format, mixing popular music and public affairs, made an immediate impact in the region when it was launched . . . Its enduring popularity is a testimony to the professionalism and commitment of the entire staff”

– Sec. Hillary Clinton, on the 10th anniversary of Radio Sawa, Feb. 29, 2012

MBN greatly expanded its outreach through social media platforms such as Facebook, Twitter and YouTube and bloggers from Syria, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, and Tunisia became regulars on Alhurra's news talk shows.

HIGHLIGHTS

EGYPT

As Egypt held its first democratic presidential elections, Alhurra partnered with the most popular television network in Egypt, Al Hayat TV, to produce *The President—Egypt 2012*, an eight-part special series that included in-depth interviews with candidates. On Election Day, correspondents crisscrossed the country from 11 key cities to report on the voting and vital issues driving voters to the polls.

Alhurra also took to the streets of Egypt, launching *Rayheen ala Feen?* (*Where Are We Going?*), which provides personal perspective from young Egyptians, and *Street Pulse*, which looks at cultural and social issues.

LIBYA

When violence broke out across the region following the release of an anti-Islam YouTube video, Alhurra brought perspective to the issue through interviews with American officials and experts, including Under Secretary of State Tara Sonenshine.

Radio Sawa expanded its reach in Libya by adding FM transmitters in Libya's largest cities.

SYRIA

Alhurra covered a broad range of issues related to Syria's civil war that have included discussions of the impact of the fighting on women, refugees and media. Alhurra also had reporting from Homs in March and Aleppo and Idlib in August 2012—where fighting was at its worst.

IRAQ

Alhurra and Radio Sawa continue to be a leading source of news in Iraq reaching nearly 12 million adults each week with in-depth local newscasts and programming. Radio Sawa is the most popular radio broadcaster in Iraq and Alhurra is among Iraqis' top-ten most important TV sources for news.

ISRAEL/PALESTINIAN TERRITORIES

When fighting broke out between Israel and Hamas, Alhurra was there to show both sides of this situation with reporters in Jerusalem, Kiryat Malachi, Sedrot, West Bank and Gaza. The network gave a voice to the Israeli position not seen on other Arabic-language channels and highlighted the devastation hitting Israeli and Palestinian citizens.

UNITED STATES

Alhurra and Radio Sawa provided comprehensive coverage of the 2012 Presidential election. As a part of that coverage, Alhurra and MacNeil/Lehrer Productions produced *The Making of Democracy*. The documentary provided a behind-the-scenes look at the 2012 elections through stories of candidates, U.S. citizens, Arab Americans, and others involved in local and national races.

“Our judges said the importance of this story is immense. By hearing from both sides, and from witnesses, this well-presented story took courage and understanding to produce.”

– Association for International Broadcasting,
Nov. 7, 2012 on Afia Darfur's report on violence in Kabkabiya, Sudan

SUDAN

MBN produces a daily Arabic-language all news and information program, *Afia Darfur*. Broadcasting on shortwave radio, *Afia Darfur* focuses on the latest news from Sudan and the plight of displaced people in Darfur and eastern Chad.



On right: Libyans march carrying a banner that says “Al Arabiya, Al Jazeera, Alhurra and NBN were with us. We will not forget their stand”; Alhurra anchors Samar Haddad and Mohsine Jbadi on the set; Alhurra correspondent Khaled Khairy gets Arab-American reactions to the Presidential election debate; MBN's Lina Malkawi and Badia Mansouri covered the election night results in real time for its audience across the Middle East.

Awards & Honors

BBG journalists were recognized for their skill, talent and courage with dozens of awards from groups involved with media and the public interest during 2012. BBG journalists received accolades from the New York Festivals, the Association for International Broadcasting (AIB), the Society of Environmental Journalists, the South East Europe Media Organization, and many other groups.

VOICE OF AMERICA

Innovative uses of online media garnered recognition for several Voice of America journalists. VOA's Jessica Beinecke, host and creator of the online English-Chinese teaching program, *OMG! Meiyu* received the 2012 **AIB Founders Award**. Arash Sigarchi of VOA's Persian Service received the **Deutsche Welle International Blog Award**, which highlights online writing that champions the open exchange of ideas and freedom of expression, for his personal blog, *Window of Anguish*. And VOA's *Middle East Voices*, which combines traditional reporting, commentary, and the stories of people living through the Arab Spring, was honored with the **Online Journalism Award** for topical reporting.

The 2012 **Clarion Award** for a television feature story/segment went to VOA reporter Carolyn Presutti, photographer/editor Michael Burke, and photographer Mike Kornely, for their report, *The Falling Man*, based on one of the most controversial images from the 9/11 terror attack in New York.

And Elez Biberaj, the Director of VOA's Eurasia Division and former head of the VOA Albanian Service, received a **Presidential Medal of Gratitude** from Albanian President Bamir Topi.

RADIO FREE EUROPE/RADIO LIBERTY

Journalists for Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty who work under difficult and sometimes dangerous conditions received a measure of encouragement with recognition by regional and international groups. RFE/RL Azerbaijani Service correspondent Khadija Ismayilova was honored by the **International Women's Media Foundation** with its **Courage in Journalism Award**, and Dovletmyrat Yazkuliye, a correspondent for RFE/RL's Turkmen language service, won a **Hellman/Hammett grant** from **Human Rights Watch** for his fearless reporting in Turkmenistan, one of the world's most closed societies.

The **Institute of War and Peace Reporting** honored journalists from RFE/RL's Armenian Service for their work on women's rights issues. **The Moscow Helsinki Group** recognized former RFE/RL Russian Service correspondent

Kristina Gorelik for her human rights reporting. Former RFE/RL Russian Service correspondent Elena Vlasenko was a **finalist** for the **Andrei Sakharov Award for Journalism** as an Act of Conscience; certificates for this award were issued to finalists and the news organizations that published their work. Lyudmilla Telen received the **Honor, Dignity & Professionalism** award from the **Russian Union of Journalists** for her work, starting in the 1970s and 1980s with Komsomolskaya Pravda newspaper and later with RFE/RL and Sovershenno Sekretno.

The **Champion of Tolerance Award** from the **United Nations Development Programme** and the Georgian Public Defender's Office this year went to RFE/RL's Georgian Service.

And Radio Farda journalist Vahid Pour Ostad was highly commended by the AIB for his report *Enferadi (Solitary Confinement)*.

MIDDLE EAST BROADCASTING NETWORKS

The **South East Europe Media Organization** recognized Alhurra correspondent Bashar Fahmi and his cameraman, Cüneyt Ünal, with its **10th Annual Human Rights Award**. The two disappeared while working in Syria, August 20. Ünal was later released, but there has been no official word on Fahmi's whereabouts at the time of publication. MBN continues to call on authorities in Syria to provide information about him.

Radio Sawa was honored with **gold, silver and bronze medals** at the **New York Festivals Radio Program & Promotion Awards®**. Sawa received the gold and bronze medals for its coverage of the Egyptian Revolution and a silver medal for its coverage of violence in Misratah, Libya.

Alhurra TV's Senior Broadcast Designer, Ahamed Batcha K., received a gold award for best original logo design for *Mu-sawat (Arabic for Equality)*, and a silver award for best use of Arabic typography at the **PromaxBDA Arabia Awards**. The Pan Arab Web Awards Academy honored Radio Sawa with its **Facebook Interactive Award**, and *Afia Darfur* was highly commended at the AIB awards.

RADIO FREE ASIA

Radio Free Asia also was recognized with multiple awards at the **New York Festivals Radio Program & Promotion Awards®**. The Uyghur Service's Shohret Hoshur received a gold medal for a story called *Hear the Children Cry Freedom*, which chronicled the hardships faced by four Uyghur youths. The Korean Service's Jung Min Noh, Won Hee Lee, Jinseo Lee were named as finalists for their stories about North Korean refugees, families separated during the Korean War and the potential for Korean unification.

At the **Hong Kong Human Rights Press Awards**, RFA's video documentary series on human trafficking, *An Invisible World – The Lives of Slaves in Modern Asia*, won first place in the online content category, and its Cantonese language service received a merit award for a story on the humiliation of a Chinese rights advocate. The awards are sponsored by the Foreign Correspondents Club, Amnesty International, and the Hong Kong Journalists Association. The series was also recognized as "highly commended" by the AIB.

The investigative series "Disappearing River," exposing the extreme pollution of China's Dong River, was a **first-place winner** at the **Society of Environmental Journalists'** annual contest.

RADIO & TV MARTÍ

TV Martí received three **Emmy nominations** from the Suncoast Chapter of the **National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences** for its audio design work and for programs *Estado de SATS* and *Hacia La Democracia*.

Estado de SATS tackles the realities and challenges faced by Cubans. The weekly program is the first show made by Cubans in Cuba to be recognized by the Academy. *Hacia La Democracia* is a how-to guide for transitioning from totalitarianism to democracy. In the craft categories, TV Martí's cutting edge programs *Antena Live* and *7 N 30* share a nomination for audio design. Janet Lomba, Director of TV Martí and Executive Producer of both programs, host Vanessa Ruiz and director Jose Vallois, were nominated alongside show creator Antonio Rodiles for *Estado de SATS*. Producer Tatiana Riquelme, Vanessa Ruiz and Caridad Rubido also were nominated for *Hacia La Democracia*. TV Martí's Fabian Crespo was nominated for his craft in audio design for *Antena Live* and *7 N 30*.



BBG Board Honors VOA "Music Man" Leo Sarkisian

Leo Sarkisian, 91, the creator of Music Time in Africa, VOA's oldest English language music program, retired in 2012, ending a career that spanned more than half a century and took him to every country on the African continent.

Sarkisian used his travels to hunt down and

record music of every stripe and genre. His recordings, including some 10,000 reel-to-reel tapes, are now part of the Leo Sarkisian Library of African Music, and make up "one of the most valuable and sought-after collections in the world," according to VOA Director David Ensor.



Above: Jessica Beinecke, host of *OMG! Meiyu* explains her innovative use of social media for English language teaching at BBG's Commission on Innovation; RFE/RL's Khadija Ismayilova accepts the Women's Media Foundation Courage in Journalism Award; Radio Sawa's Mohammad Moawad accepts the gold and bronze medals at the New York Festivals Awards for his work covering the Egyptian Revolution.

Left: Leo Sarkisian with Heather Maxwell, the new host of Music Time in Africa, work in the music library.

BBG Highlights

The Broadcasting Board of Governors is both the name of the independent federal government agency that oversees all U.S. civilian international broadcasting and the name of the board that governs those broadcasts. The BBG became an independent federal government agency on October 1, 1999.

AGENCY STRUCTURE

The Board reorganized the agency's structure to improve enterprise management. In 2011, the Board delegated day-to-day management authority to the International Broadcasting Bureau (IBB) Director. Early in 2012, the BBG and IBB staff were merged to reflect a better coordinated workflow and to help implement the Board's strategic vision. Newly defined elements include the Offices of Strategy and Development, Communications and External Affairs, Digital and Design Innovation, Performance Review and Board Operations. The Board decided in September 2012 to create a position of Chief Executive Officer of United States International Broadcasting under existing legislation. The Board tasked the IBB to develop a plan to structure and implement the CEO concept, an effort that is still ongoing.

Throughout 2012, the Board focused attention on improving the overall structure of U.S. international broadcasting. Consistent with the goals of the 2012-2016 Strategic Plan www.bbg.gov/strategic-plan-2012-2016, the Board is considering the merits of consolidating back-office functions of the three non-profit broadcasting organizations and pursuing legislation to streamline the agency.

The Board reviewed a management analysis from Deloitte on the feasibility of consolidating the grantees and from Baker & McKenzie on legal matters involving such a transaction. As the Board directed, the IBB Director and the Project Leader (the President of Middle East Broadcasting Networks) prepared a grantee consolidation plan for the Board's consideration. At the time of publication, the Board was evaluating possible approaches to this idea.

INTERNATIONAL BROADCASTING INNOVATION ACT

As a second and simultaneous effort to streamline U.S. international broadcasting in accordance with the Board's strategic vision, the Board announced its intention to pursue legislation to be called the International Broadcasting Innovation Act (IBIA) with the following attributes:

- 1. The "optimal mix of federal and non-federal assets required to achieve the successful and efficient implementation of the Board's strategic plan."

- 2. A CEO empowered to provide day-to-day executive leadership for and management authority over the federal and non-federal elements of U.S. international broadcasting.
- 3. Eliminating the IBB Director as a Presidential appointment with Senate confirmation position and replacing the position with an official selected by and reporting to the Board.
- 4. Renaming the organization to reflect the new, unified structure for U.S. international broadcasting.
- 5. Repeal of the Smith-Mundt Act's ban on domestic dissemination.*

*The defense authorization bill that was passed by Congress late in December 2012 and signed by President Obama on January 2, 2013 included a provision that reduces restrictions on the dissemination of materials within the United States that were originally intended for audiences overseas. The provision was originally known as the Smith-Mundt Modernization Act. The Board achieved one of its five goals for the IBIA with the work it did toward the passage of this law.

The legislation updates part of the U.S. Information and Educational Exchange Act of 1948 and subsequent amendments to it. The law makes no change to the BBG's enabling statute, the U.S. International Broadcasting Act of 1994, which does not authorize the agency to create new programs solely for U.S. audiences.

BBG BOARD MEMBERS

The Board is composed of nine members with expertise in the fields of mass communications, broadcast media, or international affairs. Eight members are appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate. The ninth, the Secretary of State, serves *ex officio*. At the time of publication, there were four vacancies on the Board. The following individuals served on the Board during the 2012 calendar year. At the start of 2013, the BBG was joined by Secretary of State John Kerry as an *ex-officio* member of the Board.

Current BBG Board Members Serving in 2012



Victor H. Ashe is the longest serving mayor of Knoxville, Tennessee, and was president of the U.S. Conference of Mayors. From 1968 until 1974, he served as a Tennessee state representative and as a state senator from 1975 until 1984. In 2004, Ashe was a fellow at Harvard University's JFK Institute of Politics. He was U.S. ambassador to Poland from June 2004 to October 2009. Ashe currently sits on the board of the National Trust for Historic Preservation and the American Rivers Association. Ashe serves on the BBG Governance Committee, the Strategy and Budget Committee and is Vice Chair of the Board of Radio Free Asia. Ashe lives in Knoxville, TN.



Michael Lynton is the chairman and CEO of Sony Entertainment, Inc. He is the former CEO of AOL Europe and chairman and CEO of Pearson PLC's Penguin Group. Lynton is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations and serves on the boards of the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, the Rand Corporation, and the Harvard Board of Overseers. Lynton serves on the BBG Governance Committee. In February 2012, the Board designated him to serve as Presiding Governor.



Susan McCue is president of Message Global, a strategic advocacy firm she founded for social action campaigns and political advocacy. She was the founding president and CEO of The ONE Campaign to combat extreme global poverty and was chief of staff to Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid from 1999 to 2007. Before that McCue held numerous senior communications positions in government and campaigns. She is currently vice chair of Humanity United, serves on the board of Jumo.com, and is a life member of the Council on Foreign Relations. McCue serves as Co-Chair of the BBG Communications and Outreach Committee and Chair of its Subcommittee on Innovation, a member of the Governance Committee and Vice Chair of the Board of Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty.



Michael P. Meehan After 23 years of work in the U.S. Congress, congressional and presidential campaigns, Meehan for the past six years has built successful communications strategy and public relations firm, VennSquared Communications. As president and CEO, Meehan's firm provides strategic communications for dozens of Fortune 500 companies, foundations, trade associations and political and issue campaigns. On Capitol Hill, Meehan has served in senior roles for U.S. Senators John Kerry, Barbara Boxer, Maria Cantwell and former Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle, and Congressman Vic Fazio and John Olver. At the BBG, Meehan is Chair of the Strategy and Budget Committee and the Global Internet Freedom Committee. He is the co-chair of the Communications and Outreach Committee and serves as Chair of the Board of Radio Free Asia and Chair of the Board of the Middle East Broadcasting Networks.

Former BBG Board Members Serving in 2012



Former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton served as an *ex-officio* member of the board until she left office in January 2013. Clinton served in the United States Senate as the junior senator from New York, a post she was elected to in 2000 and then re-elected in 2006. In the Senate, Clinton



Above: Secretary of State Hillary Clinton (center) with Under Secretary of State for Public Diplomacy and Public Affairs Tara D. Sonenshine, Governors Meehan, Ashe, Lynton, McCue and Mulhaupt and IBB Director Dick Lobo; Governor Lynton leads a BBG board meeting; Governor McCue with Aung San Suu Kyi at RFA; Governor Meehan visiting Alhurra studios in the Middle East.



served on the Armed Services Committee, the Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee, the Environment and Public Works Committee, the Budget Committee and the Select Committee on Aging. She also was a commissioner on the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe. As a former First Lady, and previously as an attorney, Clinton was an avid advocate for human rights, democracy and civil society. The Secretary has been represented on the Board by Tara D. Sonenshine, the Under Secretary of State for Public Diplomacy and Public Affairs.



Walter Isaacson is president of the Aspen Institute and serves as chair of the board of Teach for America. He is the former chairman and CEO of CNN and former editor of *Time Magazine*. Isaacson is the author of *Steve Jobs*, *Einstein: His Life and Universe* and *Benjamin Franklin: An American Life*, and the co-author of *The Wise Men*. In the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, he was appointed vice-chairman of the Louisiana Recovery Authority. Until his departure at the end of January 2012, Isaacson served as Chairman of the Board and as an *ex-officio* member of all board committees including Governance, Strategy and Budget, and Communications and Outreach.



Dennis Mulhaupt is founder and managing director of Commonwealth Partners, Inc., which provides advisory services to philanthropic institutions and families. He served as executive vice president at KCET in Los Angeles, the West Coast flagship public broadcasting company. He has been vice president at Claremont McKenna College; associate vice president at Stanford University; and senior associate dean in the College of Letters, Arts & Sciences at the University of Southern California. Mulhaupt served as the Chair of the BBG Governance Committee. He was Chair of the Board of Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty. In March 2012, the Board designated him to serve as Alternate Presiding Governor. He resigned from the board in April 2013.



Dana Perino is the founder of Dana Perino and Company, a strategic communications firm, and is a Fox News contributor. She is the former White House press secretary to President George W. Bush - the first Republican woman to hold that position. Perino is the creator of Minute Mentoring, a program helping young women entering the workforce, and a member of the ONE Campaign's Women's Advisory Board, Mother's Day Every Day, and Pets2Vets. She served as Co-Chair of the BBG Communications and Outreach Committee and its subcommittee on Global Internet Freedom. Perino stepped down from the board at the end of 2012.

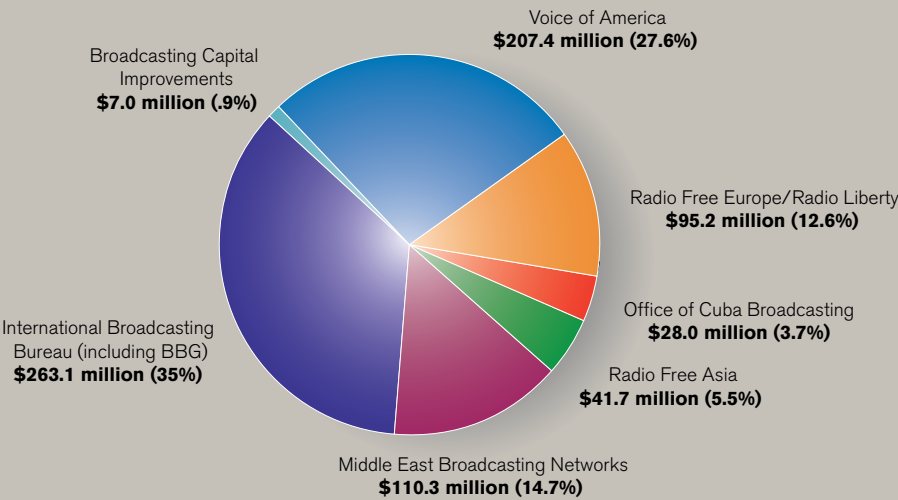


S. Enders Wimbush is Executive Director for Strategy and Development of the National Bureau for Asian Research; and Principal, StrateVarious, LLC. He was Senior Director, Foreign Policy and Civil Society at the German Marshall Fund of the United States from 2010-2012. From 1987-1993, he served as Director of Radio Liberty in Munich, Germany. Wimbush has worked for Booz Allen Hamilton, Science Applications International Corporation, and the RAND Corporation. Earlier he directed the Society for Central Asian Studies in Oxford, England. Wimbush is the author or editor of seven books, including several authoritative histories of Central Asia and the Caucasus, and many articles and policy studies. Wimbush served as Chair of the Strategy and Budget Committee and was Chair of the Board of the Middle East Broadcasting Networks, Inc. He stepped down from the BBG in May 2012.

Above: BBG Board meets at RFE/RL and passes a resolution establishing a presence for U. S. international broadcasting in Burma; Governors Mulhaupt and Ashe with Tara D. Sonenshine, the Under Secretary of State for Public Diplomacy and Public Affairs; Governors Lynton, McCue, Mulhaupt and Meehan at board meeting with IBB Director Dick Lobo and IBB Deputy Director Jeff Trimble; The BBG opened meetings to the public and streamed them on the Web.

Allocation of the BBG FY 2012 Budget

Total: \$752.7 million



FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

(IN THOUSANDS)

	2012	2011
AT END OF YEAR:		
Condensed Balance Sheet Data:		
Fund Balance with U.S.	\$168,047	\$158,294
Accounts Receivable	134	2,791
Property, Plant, and Equipment	120,582	125,357
Other	4,410	6,599
TOTAL ASSETS	\$293,173	\$293,041
Accounts Payable	43,139	38,564
Retirement and Payroll	29,161	31,121
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$72,300	\$69,685
Unexpended Appropriations	126,819	131,570
Cumulative Results of Operations	94,054	91,786
TOTAL NET POSITION	\$220,873	\$223,356
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET POSITION	\$293,173	\$293,041

FOR THE YEAR:

Total Cost	765,235	798,844
Total Earned Revenue	(1,592)	(523)
TOTAL NET COST OF OPERATIONS	\$763,643	\$798,321

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

The BBG financial statements, which are included in the Financial Section of this report, are the eighth set of statements prepared for the Agency.

The independent accounting firm Clarke Leiper, PLLC conducted our FY 2012 financial statement audit and issued an unqualified opinion on our Principal Financial Statements. This is the best possible audit result.

Preparing these statements allows the BBG to improve financial management and provide accurate and reliable information to Congress, the President and the taxpayer. BBG management is responsible for the integrity and objectivity of the financial information presented in the statements.

The financial statements and financial data presented in this report have been prepared from the accounting records of the BBG in conformity with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) and incorporate the application of the standards as prescribed by the Federal Accounting Standards Advisory Board (FASAB).

Back Cover: VOA's Sungwon Baik covers a military parade on a rare reporting trip to North Korea, where he also reported on North Korea's failed launch of a three-stage rocket that malfunctioned shortly after takeoff and plunged into the Yellow Sea. Editor: Letitia King Designed by: Jenny Lea Ramsey



Broadcasting
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2012 Annual Report



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